

Now McCain does have a tendency to break from the party line, and often does it in times when it is least needed. For example, he voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment, he voted against the Bush tax cuts, and he was the major leader in the Senate filibuster compromise. Maybe it's because I'm from Wisconsin, but I respect politicians more when they break from the party line on principle. Wisconsin's own Russ Feingold, for example, deserves great respect for his principled votes on many issues. This does not mean I would vote for him (his pro-abortion position precludes me from even considering it), but he does deserve respect unlike a Ted Kennedy. The difference between McCain and Feingold is that McCain is actually a conservative. While I don't agree with everything he has done or said (the Federal Marriage Amendment most notably), he is much preferable to candidates like Rudy Giuliani. And if he does win the nomination, conservative Christians should know that he is vastly superior to a second Clinton presidency. Maybe even more important, I think he would trounce Hillary and would continue to lay the foundations of an enduring Republican majority in American government.

This is not an endorsement of McCain. I would likely prefer a Sam Brownback, Bill Frist, George Allen, Tim Pawlenty, or Mark Sanford to McCain. But if he does win the nomination, I will be behind him 100%. If he does not win the nomination, he will still be near the top of my list of U.S. politicians most deserving of respect.